

children. According to a report from the Military Homefront for the Department of Defense, 37.8 percent of active duty troops are married with children. The Department of Defense reports that as of October 22, 2007, the total number of military fatalities in Iraq and in and around Afghanistan totaled 4,273 for both conflicts. Based on this data, the Congressional Research Service has estimated that 1,615 troops who were married and had children have died.

Single parents have also been killed in defending our country. The Military Homefront states that 5.4 percent of active duty American troops are single parents. Using this data, CRS has estimated that 231 troops who were single parents have died.

Madam Speaker, we need to provide all of the help we can to these families of our fallen military. H.R. 3961 is a small way to assist those families who have lost a spouse and a parent to their children.

HONORING THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Hungarian Federation on their 100th anniversary. This group, formed in 1906 as a vehicle to advance and protect the interests of Hungarian-Americans, is one of the oldest ethnic organizations in the United States.

Hungarians have been outstanding contributors to our republic since the days of its inception, when Col. Commandant Mihaly Kovats, the Hungarian officer who led the first American cavalry into battle, died fighting the British at Charleston, S.C. in 1779. Their exceptional service and patriotism were again exemplified in 1906 when Hungarian-Americans raised funds for the erection of a statue of George Washington in Budapest, one of the first acts of the newly-formed American Hungarian Federation.

Since its creation, the Federation's noble mission has expanded greatly to assist Hungarians on both sides of the Atlantic as well as advance worldwide the causes of freedom and democracy. They have worked tirelessly to unite those of Hungarian descent, celebrate their shared culture, assist the needy members of their community, and provide relief and shelter to victims of Communist oppression.

In a powerful expression of solidarity with those all over the world who have suffered under Stalinist regimes, the American Hungarian Federation played a pivotal role in the creation of the Victims of Communism Memorial. This monument was dedicated on June 12th by the President of the United States and it honors the more than 100 million people killed worldwide by totalitarian communist regimes.

It is my privilege to honor the American Hungarian Federation on their 100th anniversary and extraordinary contributions to America. Their efforts and labors ensure a brighter future for Hungarians, at home and abroad, as well as for all those who yearn for freedom in our world.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN HIGHWAY USERS ALLIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res 772, to recognize the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Our Nation's roadways truly are the lifeblood of our economy and an integral part of our everyday lives. Our highway system unites Americans from every state and allows us to explore the diverse culture, geography, and attractions that America has to offer. Highways are critical to the mobility of our Nation by enabling the extensive movement of goods and people. Our highways make it possible for Americans to take more than 660 million trips to visit friends and family every year, and more than 110 million Americans use the highways to commute to and from work. People will travel three trillion miles on our Nation's roads this year. Without our national highway system, America would be a far different place.

The need to connect America with a system of interstate highways was obvious to President George Washington in the first year after our Nation was founded. While traveling to the Ohio country on horseback, Washington observed the isolation and vulnerability caused by a lack of interstate mobility. He also saw the economic impact that an interstate road would have for the viability and survival of the new Nation, and called for the development of a trans-Appalachian road to unify the young Nation. That route was authorized by Congress in 1806, and the "National Road" (later known as U.S. Route 40) became the first federally funded road in U.S. history.

A young Dwight Eisenhower came to a similar conclusion while accompanying an Army convoy from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco in 1919. Eisenhower found that the state of America's transportation system was deficient. Years later, as the Supreme Allied Commander in the Second World War, Eisenhower was impressed by the ability of the autobahns to move military material rapidly across Germany. As President, Eisenhower would sign into law the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 which authorized the Interstate Highway System and established the Highway Trust Fund. The American Highway Users Alliance was instrumental to the passage of this landmark transportation legislation.

Founded in 1932, the American Highway Users Alliance has been a persistent and outspoken proponent for our Nation's highway. Known as the "Highway Users", the alliance has voiced the interests of motorists and businesses on major national highway and traffic safety legislation over the past 75 years. The Highway Users has worked tirelessly to protect the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and State highway trust funds.

Madam Speaker, the Highway Users has been a consistent advocate in favor of strengthening the national highway network by promoting a strong Federal role in mobility and safety and by advocating policies that benefit all highway users.

For these and other contributions to the daily lives, the economic well-being, and the health and safety of the traveling public, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of the American Highway Users Alliance and its sustained contribution in service to our Nation, and to recognize the Alliance's 75th anniversary.

HONORING DR. LUIS LEAL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Professor Luis Leal on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Professor Leal is a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. He is a man who has devoted his life to scholarship and education, a man dedicated to expressing and revealing the richness of Mexican, Latin American and Chicano literature and culture.

Luis Leal was born in 1907 and grew up in Mexico City during the Mexican Revolution. He came to the United States seeking a college education and earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University. After a hiatus to serve in World War II, Leal earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

After a career teaching at the University of Mississippi, Emory University, and the University of Illinois, Leal "retired" to the Santa Barbara area at the age of 69, only to be invited to join the faculty at UC Santa Barbara as a scholar and teacher, first in the Spanish and Portuguese Department and then in the newly established Center for Chicano Studies.

Leal has enjoyed a distinguished career as one of the most highly regarded scholars of Mexican and Latin American literature, and was one of the first to draw attention to this relatively new field of study. He is the author of over 30 books and 300 articles. In 1988, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies in recognition of his lifetime achievement. In 1995, UCSB created the Luis Leal Endowed Chair in Chicano Studies in recognition of his accomplishments.

Leal has also received renowned cultural honors from the Mexican and American governments. In 1992, Mexican President Salinas awarded Leal the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award granted to foreign citizens. It was President Bill Clinton who presented Leal with the National Humanities Medal in 1997.

As a man who has devoted his life to education and to advancing the study of Mexican, Latin American and Chicano Literature, I today recognize Luis Leal as a distinguished scholar and professor, and as a man dedicated to making our community and this Nation a richer, more vibrant place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I was speaking at the U.S. Navy Memorial ceremony in honor of my constituent, Lt.